



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - August 15, 2002**

- ***In the West***, hot, dry weather favors small grain harvesting but is straining drought-reduced irrigation reserves, severely stressing rangelands, and maintaining the threat of additional wildfire activity.
- ***On the Plains***, a broad area from ***eastern Colorado and western Kansas northward into southern Montana and western South Dakota*** continues to suffer from the effects of a serious long-term drought, maintaining stress on dryland summer crops and increasing concerns about a lack of moisture during the upcoming winter wheat planting season. Somewhat more favorable conditions exist on the ***southern Plains*** and in ***northern Montana***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, showers continue in the drought-affected ***Ohio Valley*** and are returning to the well-watered ***upper Mississippi Valley***. In the ***eastern and far western portions of the Corn Belt***, corn and soybeans in the grain-fill stage of development are benefiting from recent topsoil moisture improvements, following a two-month spell of unfavorably dry weather.
- ***In the South***, locally heavy showers across the ***lower Mississippi Valley*** are maintaining favorable conditions for immature summer crops, but increasing quality concerns in cotton fields where bolls are beginning to open. Meanwhile in the ***Atlantic Coast States from Georgia northward***, isolated showers are providing little relief to heat- and drought-stressed pastures and summer crops.

**Outlook:** A persistent Bermuda High will keep warm, humid air in place in the ***East***, while scattered showers will develop along a weakening frontal boundary in the ***lower Mississippi Valley, Ohio Valley, Appalachians, and Atlantic Coast States***. Farther west, a pair of cold fronts will usher in below-normal temperatures and periods of rain to the ***central and northern Plains*** and the ***upper Midwest***, while showers will be scattered across the ***southern Plains***. Dry weather will prevail in the ***West***, but cool weather in the ***Pacific Northwest*** will contrast with heat in the ***Southwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for August 20-24 calls for hotter-than-normal weather from the ***south-central U.S. into the Northeast***, while below-normal temperatures are forecast for the ***Intermountain West, Rockies, and northern Plains***. Wetter-than-normal conditions are expected for the ***Corn Belt and eastern Gulf Coast region***, while drier-than-normal conditions are expected in the ***western half of the U.S. and Texas***.

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